

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An irrigation ablation probe comprising:

a generally rigid probe body having proximal and distal ends and comprising:

a tubing having proximal and distal ends and at least one lumen extending

therethrough,

a tip electrode mounted at the distal end of the tubing, the tip electrode having at least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass, and

means for introducing fluid through the at least one irrigation opening of the tip electrode; and

a handle mounted to the proximal end of the probe body.

2. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 1, wherein the introducing means comprises an infusion tube having proximal and distal ends, the infusion tube extending through one of the at least one lumens of the tubing, wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid communication with the at least one irrigation opening in the tip electrode.

3. An irrigation ablation probe comprising:

a generally rigid probe body having proximal and distal ends and comprising:

a tubing having proximal and distal ends and at least one lumen extending

therethrough,

a tip electrode mounted at the distal end of the tubing, the tip electrode having at least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass,

an infusion tube having proximal and distal ends, the infusion tube extending through one of the at least one lumens of the tubing, wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid communication with the at least one irrigation opening in the tip electrode, and

a stiffening wire extending through another of the at least one lumens of the tubing; and

a handle mounted to the proximal end of the probe body.

1 4. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 3, wherein the probe body has a
length ranging from about 3.5 inches to about 12 inches.

5 5. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 3, wherein the probe body has a
length ranging from about 5 inches to about 10 inches.

6. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 3, wherein the probe body has a
length ranging from about 7 inches to about 8 inches.

10 7. An irrigation probe comprising:
a generally rigid probe body having proximal and distal ends and comprising:
a tubing having proximal and distal ends and first and second lumens extending
therethrough,
a tip electrode mounted at the distal end of the tubing, the tip electrode having at
15 least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass,
an infusion tube having proximal and distal ends, the infusion tube extending
through the first lumen of the tubing, wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid
communication with the at least one irrigation opening in the tip electrode, and
a stiffening wire having proximal and distal ends that extends through the second
20 lumen of the tubing; and
a handle mounted to the proximal end of the probe body.

25 8. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 3, wherein the stiffening wire is
made of stainless steel.

9. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 3, wherein the stiffening wire is
made of a malleable material.

1 10. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 1, wherein the at least one
irrigation opening comprises a longitudinal passage extending out the distal end of the tip
electrode.

5 11. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 1, wherein the at least one
irrigation opening comprises at least one transverse passage.

 12. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 1, wherein the tip electrode is
porous.

10 13. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 1, further comprising a
temperature sensing means mounted in a blind hole in the tip electrode.

 14. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 7, wherein the probe body has a
15 length ranging from about 3.5 inches to about 12 inches.

 15. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 7, wherein the probe body has a
length ranging from about 5 inches to about 10 inches.

20 16. An irrigation ablation probe according to claim 7, wherein the probe body has a
length ranging from about 7 inches to about 8 inches.

 17. An irrigation probe comprising:
a generally rigid probe body having proximal and distal ends and comprising:
25 a tubing having proximal and distal ends and at least one lumen extending
therethrough,
a tip electrode mounted at the distal end of the tubing, the tip electrode having at
least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass,

1 an infusion tube having proximal and distal ends, wherein the distal end of the
infusion tube is in fluid communication with the at least one irrigation opening in the tip
electrode, and
 a stiffening wire, wherein the stiffening wire and the infusion tube extend through
5 the same one of the at least one lumens of the tubing; and
 a handle mounted to the proximal end of the probe body.

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